



Generator Safety

Tips on Safe Use of a Generator

Every winter we hear tragic reports of injuries or deaths due to the improper use of generators. Some basic safety steps can prevent accidental electrocution and carbon monoxide poisoning

Always read and adhere to the manufacturer's instructions for safe operation.

- Don't cut corners when it comes to safety. Carefully read and observe all instructions in your generator's owner manual
- Generators pose both a hazard of electrical shock & Carbon Monoxide poisoning if used improperly.
- Use generators correctly – **NEVER use a generator indoors or in an attached garage.** Only operate the generator outdoors in a well-ventilated, dry area, away from air intakes to the home.
- Do not hook up a generator directly to your home's wiring, instead, connect the equipment you want to power directly to the outlets on the generator.



The Lexington Fire Department recommends that you have an **operating CO detector** in addition to your regular smoke detector **BEFORE** operating a portable generator.

- If you plan on using an alternate heating source, **never** use a stove, oven or outdoor grill to heat your home.
- Never leave a fireplace fire unattended.
- If using a space heater, follow the manufacturer's instructions on how to safely use the heater.
- Turn the space heater off when you leave the room or go to sleep.
- Unplug electric blankets when not in use.
- Be careful with candles – never leave them unattended.

For more information on Carbon Monoxide, see "Carbon Monoxide Dangers" under Safety Tips

Be Prepared

If a fire occurs in your home, a working smoke alarm can save your life.

Make certain smoke alarms are installed on every level of your home and outside every sleeping area. Test your smoke alarms monthly and change the batteries at least once a year.

Everyone in your home should know what to do in the event of a fire. Plan and practice a home escape plan.

Make sure everyone knows at least two ways out of every sleeping area. Decide upon a place outside of the home, where everyone will meet in the event of fire. Make certain everyone understands that once they have left a burning building they should never go back inside. Call 911 from a safe phone.

For More Information

Contact:

Lexington Fire Department

Community Services Bureau

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859-231-5668

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